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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 SUSAN CHEN, et al.,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 NATALIE D'AMICO et al.,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-1877JLR

ORDER

15 On December 6, 2022, the court ordered the parties to meet and confer and file a
16 joint status report no later than January 13, 2023 with a proposal for how this matter
17 should proceed and a proposed timeline. (*See* 12/6/22 Order (Dkt. # 304).) In response,
18 Defendant Washington State Department of Children Youth and Family (“DCYF”)¹ and
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21 ¹ DCYF is the successor-in-interest to the Washington State Department of Social and
22 Health Services. *See, e.g.*, RCW 43.216.906.

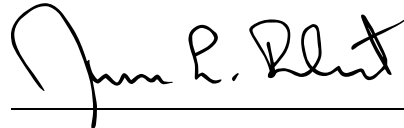
1 *pro se* Plaintiff Susan Chen have filed separate status reports.² (DCYF Status Report
 2 (Dkt. # 305); Chen Status Report (Dkt. # 307)). Plaintiff J.L., Ms. Chen's minor son,
 3 does not have legal representation and did not file a status report. (*See* Dkt.); *see also*
 4 *Johns v. Cnty. of San Diego*, 114 F.3d 874, 877 (9th Cir. 1997) (prohibiting *pro se*
 5 parents or guardians from representing a minor child without assistance of counsel).

6 DCYF and Ms. Chen represent that they held a telephone call on January 11, 2023
 7 but were unable to reach agreement regarding how the matter should proceed or a
 8 proposed timeline. (DCYF Status Report at 1-2; Chen Status Report at 2.) Both parties
 9 represent that they were unable to reach agreement in large part because Plaintiffs do not
 10 yet have, but intend to obtain, legal counsel. (*See* DCYF Status Report at 1-2; Chen
 11 Status Report at 1-2.)

12 In light of Ms. Chen's *pro se* status and limited English proficiency, as well as
 13 J.L.'s lack of legal representation, the court grants Plaintiffs an additional 60 days to
 14 obtain legal counsel. (*See* Chen Status Report at 1.) Accordingly, the court ORDERS the
 15 parties to meet and confer and file a joint status report by no later than **March 18, 2023**,
 16 that includes a proposal for how this matter should proceed in view of the Ninth Circuit's
 17 opinion vacating and remanding the matter to this court and an accompanying timeline
 18 for the proposed course of action.

21 ² Ms. Chen's filing is noted as a motion to extend the deadline to meet and confer. (*See*
 22 Dkt.) The court construes this document as Ms. Chen's response to the court's December 6,
 2022 order directing the parties to meet and confer. (*See* 12/6/22 Order.)

1 Dated this 17th day of January, 2023.

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4 JAMES L. ROBART
5 United States District Judge
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